

D. D. D. D.

179 Canal St, Ste 3B/4D  
New York, NY 10013

Julia Betts

*The Dams Are Broken*

March 28 – April 28, 2024

Opening Reception Friday, March 29, 2024, 6–8pm

Press Release

D. D. D. D. is happy to announce *The Dams are Broken*, a solo exhibition by Pittsburgh-based artist Julia Betts in our 4D space.

In the exhibition, the inanimate and animate blend together with Betts' processes of addition and breakage. She does so by utilizing the flexibility and liquidity of the acrylic medium. Brilliant hues of neon greens, vibrant reds, and deep blues run together between crevasses of thick textured black lines, reducing recognizable objects such as take-out bags, soap containers, cats, and people into abstract forms. Through rupturing carefully constructed forms, she encourages the viewer to slide between the dichotomy of cathartic order and reckless abandon.

Betts' process arose from watching her niece's dedication to coloring within the lines of her coloring book. To her, outlines can feel beautifully safe or heartbreakingly stifling, often turning into oppressive fences and prison bars. Yet, these boundaries and rules are created in response to infinite freedoms—as considerations of what lies outside their limits. Betts breaks through to the other side of these limits by re-constructing outlines till they no longer exist in their initial form. People become the objects around them - a man falls and spills into a lighthouse, a slice of pizza, and a Lowes bucket.

Each segment of the installation is intended to work symbiotically. Betts uses the category of installation to ask us to step into the disorder and chaos of place, people, and things. In a corner, a person lays beneath a spiderweb of red wires and decays into tubes of toothpaste. The red wires turn blood-like as they mix into the skin of the man below. His peaceful pose becomes violent. The associations of the body and object carry themselves deeper, pushed, and dried acrylic becomes skin-like and plastic. We watch as the laws of physics take hold and guide us towards chaos.

## Biography

Julia Betts is an artist based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 2014, Betts graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a BA and, in 2017, graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with an MFA in Sculpture. Betts has participated in group exhibitions nationally and mounted numerous solo shows at spaces such as Unsmoke Systems (Pittsburgh, PA) and Grid Space (New York, NY). In addition, she completed artist-in-residence programs at Millay Colony for the Arts and Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. She has been invited as a visiting artist at institutions such as Albion College, Montgomery College, Illinois State University, and Columbus State University.

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